



National Marine Protected Areas Center Weekly Update February 7, 2011

Federal Advisory Committee

REMINDER: MPA Federal Advisory Committee Seeks Nominations, Deadline February 15: The Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee is seeking new members to fill six vacancies for October 2011. The Committee advises the Departments of Commerce and the Interior on the development and implementation of a national system of marine protected areas. In particular, nominations for representatives of ocean industry (e.g. oil and gas), commercial fishing, non-consumptive use, Tribal and/or Pacific Islanders, and conservation interests are sought by February 15, 2011. Each nomination submission should include the proposed member's name and organizational affiliation, a cover letter describing the nominee's qualifications and interest in serving on the Advisory Committee, and a curriculum vitae or resume of the nominee. Letters of support are encouraged but not required. Self-nominations are acceptable. Nominations should be sent to the address below; email nominations are preferred. See <http://www.mpa.gov/fac/> for more details.

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National System

First Federal Fishery Management Service Sites Join the National System: The MPA Center is pleased to announce the addition of the first federal fishery management sites to the national system. The sites were nominated by the National Marine Fisheries Service in consultation with the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council. They include four sites under the Fishery Management Gear Restricted Areas (under Tilefish Fishery Management Plan): Oceanographer Canyon, Lydonia Canoyne, Veatch Canyon and Norfolk Canyon. The nominations were open for a 30-day public comment period from July 6-August 5, 2010, and no public comments were received. The nominations have now been accepted and will be added to the List of National System MPAs shortly. For more information, visit <http://www.mpa.gov/nationalsystem/nationalsystemlist/>. (Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov)

List of Existing MPAs Nominated to National System of MPAs Available for Public Comment: The National Marine Protected Areas Center has received the fourth round of nominations for existing MPAs to join the national system of MPAs, based on a call for nominations from August 2010 through

November 2010. This [list of nominated sites](#) has now been published in the [Federal Register](#) for a 45-day public review period ending March 7, 2011. More detail about the nominated sites is available at www.mpa.gov. The group of 39 sites includes territorial and state government sites from American Samoa and California. Following review of public comments, the final nominations will be formally accepted as members of the national system in Spring 2011. (Lauren.Wenzel@noaa.gov)

Science and Stewardship

MPA Center Work on CA MPAs and Wildlife Hotspots Featured in “*The All Bird Bulletin*”:

Recent work completed by the MPA Center and the Point Reyes Bird Observatory Conservation Science (PRBO) assessing the conservation status of important seabird foraging habitats in the Pacific Ocean off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California was featured in the Winter 2011 edition of “*The All Bird Bulletin*”. The newsletter, a publication of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, is available to download at <http://www.nabci-us.org/aboutnabci/bulletinwinter11.pdf>. The article describes how, using GIS techniques, staff at the MPA Center and PRBO found that more than 100 MPAs containing seabird hotspots within the study region restrict some resources from being extracted, while other extractive and non-consumptive uses are allowed. For a fact sheet describing the project, visit http://www.mpa.gov/pdf/helpful-resources/mpa_wildlife_hotspots_ca.pdf. (Rondi.Robison@noaa.gov)

MPA Center

MPA Center Welcomes New Employees: The MPA Center is excited to welcome three new employees to its team. Hugo Selbie, Inventory Specialist for the MPA Center, started in the Center’s Monterey office in September 2010 and will be working on the MPA Inventory and the Center’s spatial resource assessment efforts. Hugo has a BS from Cardiff University (U.K.) in Marine Geography and a Masters in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Carlos Mireles is a California Sea Grant Fellow who has been working with the MPA Center’s Monterey office since January 2011. Carlos received a BS Degree in Ecology and Systematic Biology from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo and a MS Degree in Biology from California State University, Long Beach. He will be working on the implementation of the Avoid Harm Provisions of Executive Order 13158. Denise Ellis-Hibbett is the Center’s Knauss Fellow, and will be working out of the Center’s headquarters office in Silver Spring, MD. Denise is enrolled in the PhD program in the Environmental, Earth and Ocean Sciences Department at University of Massachusetts Boston where she is also completing a Graduate Certificate Program in Geographic Information Science. Denise will be assisting the MPA Center in planning the 2011 National System Partners retreat, the nomination process for the national system, interagency coordination, support for the MPA Federal Advisory Committee and will assist the Center’s Communications Coordinator. (Hugo.Selbie@noaa.gov, Carlos.Mireles@noaa.gov, Denise.Ellis-Hibbett@noaa.gov)

Library Links of the Week

A new article published in the peer-reviewed open access journal PLoS One reports the first direct observations of large-scale larval transport between MPAs within a network and from MPAs to adjacent unprotected areas. The authors used genetic parentage analyses to examine exploited populations of yellow tang (*Zebrasoma flavescens*) in a network of nine MPAs along the Kohala-Kona coast around the island of Hawai‘i. The authors also used satellite altimetry and oceanographic models to identify a predominately northward current in the study area. Four parent-offspring pairs from a large adult population were identified, demonstrating northward larval dispersal at distances of between 15 and 184km. In two instances, this dispersal went from an MPA to unprotected sites. The full text of the article, "Larval Connectivity in an Effective Network of Marine Protected Areas" is available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0015715> (Chris.Belter@noaa.gov)

A new open-access article published in the journal Environmental Management examines the initial planning phase of MPA implementation and the effects this phase can have on later management. The authors describe the process of establishing a protected area around the Pearl Cays, located off the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, in the context of examining how the choices made in the initial design process, the process of communicating with local stakeholders, and the socio-political climate of the local area affect the final outcome of that process. The authors conclude that these factors can have a profound effect on the implementation of an MPA, and that MPA design and management must take these factors into consideration. The full text of the article, "MPA in Labor: Securing the Pear Cays of Nicaragua," is available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00267-010-9587-y> (Chris.Belter@noaa.gov)

Events and Conferences

The following is a listing of events and conferences that the MPA Center is organizing or that MPA Center staff members plan to attend.

February 2011

13-18: ASLO Aquatic Sciences Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico (D'Iorio)

March 2011

14-18: The George Wright Society on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites, New Orleans, LA (Wenzel, Grussing)

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The mission of the National Marine Protected Areas Center is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training, and information in the planning, management, and evaluation of the nation's system of marine protected areas.

The MPA Center's goals are to:

1. Build and maintain the National System of MPAs
2. Improve MPA Stewardship and Effectiveness
3. Coordinate International, National, and Regional MPA Activities

For more information, go to: www.MPA.gov.